



ALASKA COMMON GROUND
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March 19, 2015

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Dear Senators and Representatives:

On March 18, 2015 the Board of Directors of Alaska Common Ground voted to express their support for the expansion of Medicaid. This letter is to communicate our support to each of you.

Our reasons are twofold:

First, Medicaid expansion will have a **positive fiscal impact** at a time when it is greatly needed. As your economists have explained, the infusion of new money into the state will have multiple positive ripple effects, benefiting not just the health care industry, but other businesses, employees and families.

Secondly, and most importantly, many of our fellow citizens are suffering and dying because they cannot afford health care without insurance. Other than last minute, often too late, emergency treatment, they do not have care. As the nun from Anchorage Faith & Action Congregations Together (AFACT) expressed so well, we all have a **moral imperative to be our brother's keepers.**

In conclusion, **we want to emphasize that your approval of Medicaid must happen this session or Alaska will lose another whole year of potential economic and social benefits.**

Thank you for your service for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Mary Lu Harle
Acting Chair, Board of Directors
Alaska Common Ground